

MINEHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R

1965

POPULATION

The Registrar General's figure for the population of the town is 7,420, this being the same as for 1964. It is probable that during the summer holidays this figure is more than doubled. In this respect it is difficult to estimate the seasonal increase since the inception of the Holiday Camp. This varies from week to week and we have no constant population from its opening in May and closing in September. Its administration has been satisfactory during the season under discussion. The Medical Clinic, which is responsible for the health of the Camp, has not notified any complaints.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of Minehead during the year 1965 was satisfactory. The supply itself has caused no anxiety; it is of good quality and entirely adequate in quantity. The accompanying table of the examination of specimens taken from widely different parts of the supply demonstrates its excellence bacteriologically and chemically.

RAW WATER				TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
20	21	6	-	35	1	-	-

SWIMMING POOLS

There are three in number; the Minehead Swimming Pool which is privately owned, and is filled with sea water; two which are the property of the Holiday Camp and are filled with fresh water from the Camp supply. The treatment adopted to maintain their purity is the same in all cases, that is re-circulation, filtration and automatic chlorination.

To ensure that the quality of the water is maintained, samples are taken frequently. These ensure that the degree of chlorination is maintained and there is no trace of bacterial infection. Frequent testing indicated that in all the pools a safe bathing water was maintained. The filtration and chlorination plants are under skilled management and the engineer is available the whole of the time the baths are in operation. The efficiency of the management of the pools has at no time given rise to anxiety.

HOLIDAY CAMP

The Public Health Inspector is in constant touch with the Holiday Camp and his reports are satisfactory with regard to all aspects of its administration.

Medical and surgical casualties are dealt with adequately, and to our satisfaction, by qualified members of the medical profession.

UNFIT AND SUB-STANDARD HOUSES

During the year the survey of Sub-standard houses was commenced, and 245 houses were inspected. It is anticipated that the survey of 350 houses will be completed during the first half of 1966.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Mr. Holman, your Surveyor, states in his report that the Drainage Scheme has moved a little since my last report, and it is anticipated that tenders for the Eastern Area Relief Sewer will be invited very shortly, and that work will commence in October.

This will mark the end of a long and tedious argument that has been before you for too long.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

I understand you have had before you the letter I received in December last from the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Parry Jones, regarding the proposed tipping area on the Marshes. In this letter he pointed out the many objections to this in view of the close proximity to the Holiday Camp, dwelling houses and school, and has asked your Council to consider the installation of a pulveriser. I understand that this suggestion is still under consideration and that in the meantime the tipping is continued at Quay West.

Further, I understand that your Council have agreed in principle to a scheme for the redevelopment of the old Gas Works site, the work to be carried out in stages over the next year or two. When this is completed public opinion should be sufficient to discontinue tipping at Quay West.

OPEN SPACES

In my last report I dealt with this subject drawing attention to the need of vigilance in guarding our open spaces and beauty spots from spoliation and destruction by misdirection or lack of observation.

It is our duty and privilege to guard our heritage against any threat to its integrity.

Since it has been brought to my notice locally, and by letters sent to me from up and down the country, that a discussion has been taking place anent the provision of a camping site on the North Hill.

The North Hill is one of the beautiful landmarks of the north west coast of Somerset, and is loved by local inhabitants, and by visitors all over the country.

The natural beauty of hill and coast, and the neighbouring hinterland is hardly likely to be improved by the hand of man. The great architect of the universe has dealt with it down the ages to produce all the treasures of the west country, and not in vain.

The North Hill is free for all to see and second thoughts are sometimes better thoughts.

At this juncture it would be appropriate to mention the harbour and the sea front of Minehead. This refers to land to the west of the Lifeboat Station, and includes the Gas Works and Gas Holders, the Quay West and the land on which the present tip is situated. If this is to be developed as an amenity to Minehead, control of the area by the Town Council cannot be too quickly achieved. I gather that this has now been satisfactorily dealt with.

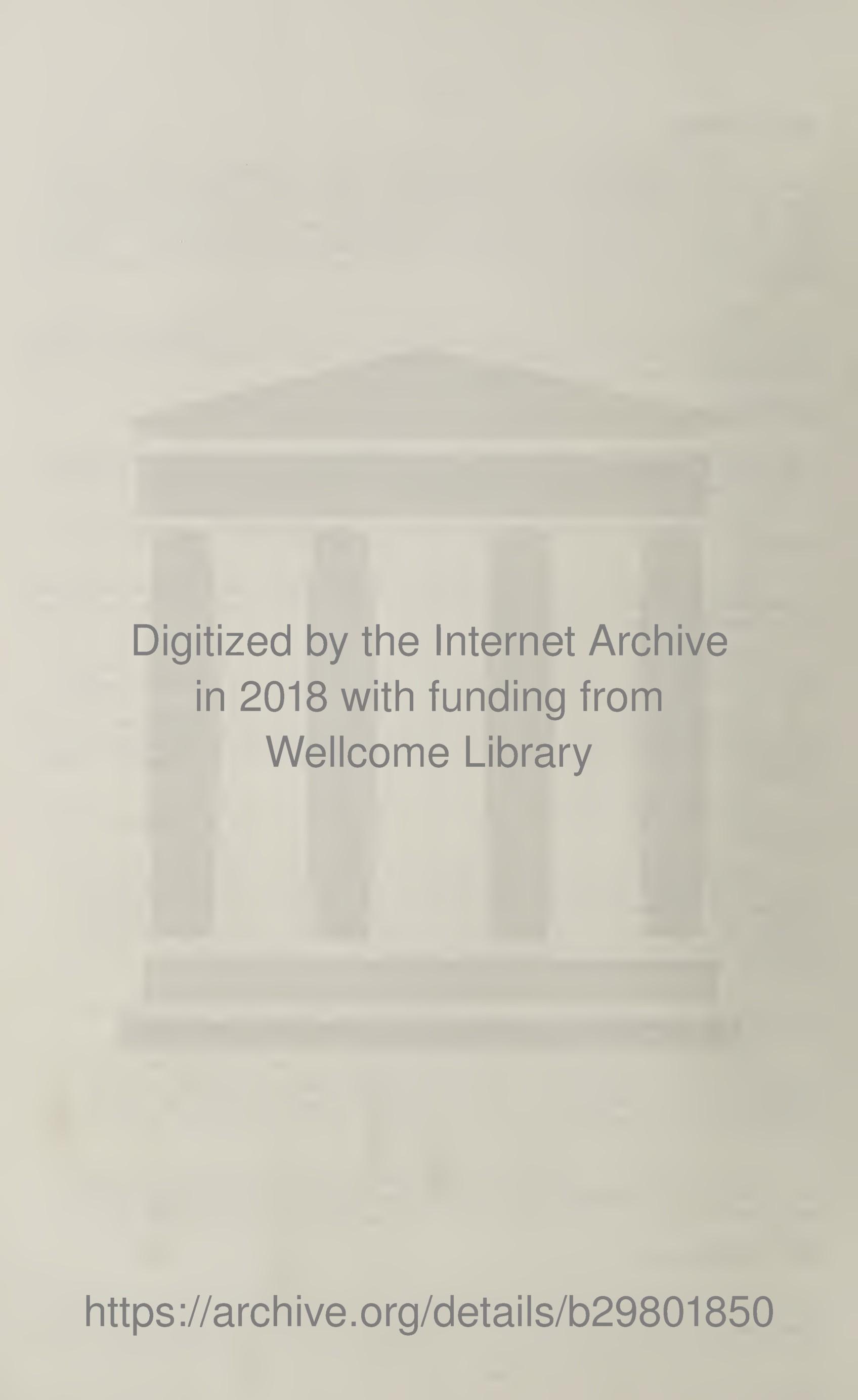
I feel that this area must be safeguarded so that a plan for its ultimate inclusion in the amenities of Minehead may not be throttled before birth.

I will take this opportunity to testify once more how much Minehead and its visitors are to be congratulated on the happy appearance the town and its surroundings display. Residents and visitors alike are eager in expressing their appreciation of its wonderfully fair appearance of gardens and walks, and the tasteful colouring which is achieved therein.

A debt is owing to your Surveyor, Mr. Holman, and his Parks Superintendent, Mr. Holmes, for the beautiful effect that matures without fuss or bother. It need not be beautiful, but it is, and they are the instigators who are responsible.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat is prepared for human consumption at the slaughterhouse from where it is distributed locally. So far as it is practical, all animals are inspected before slaughter, and all carcases and offal are inspected in accordance with instructions laid down in Memorandum 62 Foods, and appropriate action taken when required.

A faint, light gray watermark-like image of a classical building with four prominent columns is visible in the background.

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All places where food is prepared, etc., including the slaughterhouse, shops, stalls and vehicles, are inspected from time to time and action taken as required. Generally the cleanliness of these establishments and vehicles is satisfactory.

A list of premises used in this context, in alphabetical order, follows:-

Bakehouses 0	Fried Fish Shops 3
Bakers' Shops 3	Fruiterers and Greengrocers 10
Butchers 8	Grocers 31
Cafés 16	Holiday Camp 1
Chemists 5	Hostels 1
Clubs, etc. 8	Hotels with Restaurants 10
Canteens 2	Hotels, Residential 38
Church Halls 6	Licensed Premises 9
Dairies 1	Pie Factory 1
Dairy Shops 2	Restaurants 6
Fishmongers 3	

The number of inspections given to these premises was 649 during the year.

The care, cleanliness and compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations of these premises was found to be satisfactory.

Two premises were made to comply with the requirements of Section 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960, and one premises was made to comply with Section 19. All premises listed in the above table comply with the requirements of those sections of the Regulations.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Registered premises and persons employed

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered	Number of Persons Employed	Number of Premises Inspected
Offices	47	455	63
Retail Shops	105	698	169
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	8	2
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens	14	109	33
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
Total	168	1,270	
		Total - Males	511
		Total - Females	759

MEAT INSPECTION, 1965

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	279	-	19	1,893	823	-
Number inspected	279	-	19	1,893	823	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	-	-	4	35	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.7%	-	-	0.2%	4.2%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	5	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.6%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-	All animals					
(a) Tuberculosis	51					
(b) Cysticercosis	-					
(c) Other	342					
Total (in lbs.) condemned	393					

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	9	14	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	52	55	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	61	69	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation ..	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-	
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

	No. of out-workers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.	3	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of notifiable diseases for the year was 269 compared with 16 for the year 1964. An epidemic of measles occurred during the months of November and December affecting the town and the surrounding country. Two hundred and sixty seven cases were notified in the Minehead area. The bulk of the cases were of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Cases requiring institutional treatment are sent to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection of premises after infectious diseases is carried out by the Local Authority, also after cases of an unhygienic nature on receipt of a written request from the General Practitioner in attendance.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were two cases of Tuberculosis notified; there were three deaths.

HOSPITAL

The Minehead and West Somerset Hospital is entirely administered by the Bridgwater, Minehead and Butleigh Management Committee.

Local representation is supplied by the House Committee. This Committee is appointed by the Committee of Management from information supplied to it. It is empowered to make recommendations on the supervision and welfare of the Institution and its occupants to the Committee of Management. The Committee of Management is represented on the House Committee by three of its members.

MILK

The milk supply during the year was satisfactorily maintained. Samples were taken from time to time by the County Milk Sampling Officers.

- (a) The total number of Registered Distributors was five.
- (b) The total number of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms) was one.

MANUFACTURE OF ICE CREAM

The regulations governing this manufacture and the requirements implicit in them have tended to restrict the preparation of ice cream to the large wholesale houses. The distributors find it more profitable to purchase their ice cream in bulk.

The number of premises registered for

Manufacture and Retail	1
Manufacture only	0
Retail only	49

HOUSING

The total number of houses is 2,839. During the year there were no houses erected by the Local Authority; sixty four were erected by Private Enterprise.

The total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year was 128.

There was no case of overcrowding.

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st Dec., 1965				Housing Programme for 1965	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise			-	
255	356			-	
No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.64 (a)	Gained from conversions and erected during 1965 (b)	Total (a) + (b)	Less Houses demolished closed etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.65 L.A. P.E.	
L.A. 359	-	359	-	359	-
P.E. 2,416	64	2,480	-	-	2,480
TOTAL 2,775	64	2,839	-	359	2,480

OLD PEOPLE'S DWELLINGS

Number erected to 31.12.65		Number in course of erection	
With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid	With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid
-	-	17 and one Warden	-

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A. Discretionary

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during years:-

(1)		(2)	
Received		Approved	
Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings
1	3	1	3

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year .. Nil

Average cost per dwelling approved during year £361

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority £1,085

B. Standard

1. Number of applications (a) Received 8
(b) Approved 6

2. Number of houses where Standard Amenities have been provided 7

NOTE Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers
during year 7

AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

In my report for the year 1964 I reported on the change of the Somerset Ambulance Transport which took place on the 31st March, 1964.

The Minehead Divisions of the St. John Ambulance Brigade have their own private ambulances based at their Headquarters in North Road, Minehead. These consist of a Bedford Ambulance available to transport invalids on journeys which are not provided for by the National Health Service, and is on a voluntary basis provided by the Minehead Divisions. The Divisions also possess an Austin Mobile First-Aid Unit to provide first-aid service and nursing facilities at any sports meeting in the area. It will also serve in this capacity on the Minchead Sea Front during the coming season. This useful unit is fully equipped and staffed, and capable of operative surgery. This, I have no doubt, will prove a very useful and valuable acquisition to the neighbourhood.

The Bedford Ambulance has travelled 2,140 miles during the past year, 1,160 of these were in transporting 19 invalids mostly long distances. These duties involved 129 hours of voluntary service.

The Mobile Unit travelled 202 miles. This included duties on the Sea Front and attendance at a number of other meetings. Fifty-six patients were treated from this vehicle which was staffed by both nursing and ambulance members.

CLINICS

Clinics, with the exception of Infant Welfare, are held at the Minchead and West Somerset Hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births - Legitimate 80 40 40			
Illegitimate 16 5 11			
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 12.9			
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births) 16.6%			
Stillbirths 4			
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 40.0			
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) 0			

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	142	59	83
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	19.1

An analysis of the vital statistics shows that the total deaths registered were 142; in 1964 the figure was 136.

The total of live births was 96, compared with 95 the previous year.

With regard to the deaths occurring in age groups, two occurred between 15 and 24; three between 45 and 54; twelve between 55 and 64; thirty nine between 65 and 74; and eighty six over the age of 75. Eight occurred over the age of 90.

Consideration of the causes of deaths shows that 106 deaths resulted from diseases of the circulatory system; the figure for the previous year being 80.

Of these 106 deaths, lesions of the coronary vessels of the heart number 27, and vascular lesions of the nervous system 22. There were 14 deaths due to respiratory disease. The total number of deaths from malignant diseases was 19, compared with 26 in 1964.

The general health of the district for which I am particularly responsible has not caused any particular anxiety. We have been very fortunate in escaping the bulk of a particularly active epidemic of measles. We have been fortunate in this epidemic in that, in spite of its activity and wide distribution, it was not attended by any tragic happenings or complications. There were no deaths, but 267 cases were notified in the Minehead area. The usual discipline was carried out during the period of the epidemic without any trouble..

Nothing took place in the Hospital management beyond difficulty in obtaining nurses in full supply which was heavily felt on all sides.

The Holiday Camp completed its season satisfactorily to all concerned. This may partly be due to the practice of previous years, and also to a determination to profit by the opportunity and experience of those years.

Climate and its variations play a large part in the success or otherwise of open-air camps. The percentage due to the variation is not easy to arrive at.

As Medical Officer of Health of Minehead and district, I must accept the responsibility for the general success or failure, and I hasten to ask all those who have participated in this effort to accept my congratulations and thanks for all that they have done for the pleasure and happiness of others.

W. BAIN, M.B., B.S., Lond.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Brook House, Minehead.

